[0066] According to the above present invention, the status information or the guidance information is not displayed on the first display unit (main screen) to enable effective utilization of whole screen, and a layout of the screen becomes more clear than the case that such information is displayed, and visibility is improved. The display area of the first display unit is further enlarged by displaying the concomitant display on the second display unit (sub-screen), which is displayed concomitantly to the display contents of the first display unit.

[0067] For example, in the case of using videophone, traditionally, an image shot by a terminal of the other calling party (face of the other party) and an image shot by own terminal (face of oneself) are displayed on one (1) screen, but by displaying the face of the other party on the main screen and the face of oneself on the sub-screen, it is possible to feel like talking face to face, and the sense of reality is enhanced. Also, by using the sub-screen for previewing an image file attached to an e-mail, the main screen can continue displaying the body text, and it is possible to read the body text while identifying the image file, without the display area of the body text being occupied by the attached image file. Therefore, a user can make the most of e-mails, Web contents, moving images, still images and others without being bothered by the status information and the guidance information.

[0068] Since the operation keys (see **FIG. 2C**, for example cross-shaped key **15**) are displayed on the touch panel provided on the second display unit (sub-screen) depending on the display contents of the first display unit, a button layout is organized, and since the operation keys (see **FIG. 2C**, for example cross-shaped key **15**) displayed on the sub-screen act as input means, it is not necessary to display the guidance information. Further, by watching the second display unit, the user can identify the status information. Even if the concomitant display is displayed on the second display unit, the status information is displayed in a layered style, so the status information can also be identified in this case.

[0069] The present embodiment is described taking the folding-type portable telephone (including PHS) as an example, but the present invention can apply to the flip type shown in **FIG. 1A** and other portable telephones, such as the slide type (**FIG. 8A** and **FIG. 8B**) and the rotating type (**FIG. 8C** and **FIG. 8D**) which are shown in **FIGS. 8A** to **FIG. 8E**. In the slide-type portable telephone of **FIG. 8A**, the input buttons are disposed on a cover **81**, and the sub-screen **2** is covered by the cover **81** except a portion. The status information **14** is displayed on the sub-screen **2** which can be visually recognized even when the cover **81** is closed. When the cover **81** is slid to a direction of an arrow of **FIG. 8A**, whole of the sub-screen **2** can be visually recognized (see **FIG. 8B**). The sub-screen **2** is the touch panel, and since the operation keys (see **FIG. 2C**, for example cross-shaped key **15**) are displayed depending on the display contents of the main screen **1**, the main screen **1** can be used to the greatest extent possible.

[0070] In the rotating-type portable telephone of **FIG. 8C**, a portion of a first housing **83** having the main screen **1** is notched, and a portion of the sub-screen **2** can be visually recognized through the notch. The status information **14** is displayed on the sub-screen **2** which can be visually recognized in the state of **FIG. 8C**. By rotating the first housing **83** to a direction of an arrow of **FIG. 8C** through a hinge **82**, the terminal can be in an opened state as shown in **FIG. 8D**. In this state, whole of the sub-screen **2** can be visually recognized, and the hidden input buttons **3** covered by the first housing **83** are revealed. The sub-screen **2** is the touch panel, and since the operation keys (see **FIG. 2C**, for example cross-shaped key **15**) are displayed depending on the display contents of the main screen **1**, the main screen **1** can be used to the greatest extent possible.

[0071] It is needless to say that the present invention can be practiced even in the portable telephone (straight type, see **FIG. 8E**) without the flip (**FIG. 1A**) **4** or the cover **81**. The straight-type portable telephone is the one of which the main screen **1**, the sub-screen **2** and the operation buttons **3** are disposed on one (1) housing.

[0072] Therefore, in addition to the portable telephone shown in **FIG. 1C** and **FIG. 1D**, if the flip-type, the slide-type, the rotating-type and the straight-type portable telephones (including PHS) are used, the same advantages as the present invention can be obtained. It is possible to apply not only to the portable telephones but also to portable terminals represented by PDA, fixed telephones with liquid-crystal display units, facsimile apparatuses and other terminal apparatuses. In these cases, although various types such as the straight type, the flip type, the slide type, the rotating type and others may be conceivable for the terminal apparatuses, it is possible to apply to any type.

[0073] While illustrative and presently preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail herein, it is to be understood that the inventive concepts may be otherwise variously embodied and employed and that the appended claims are intended to be construed to include such variations except insofar as Limited by the prior art.

What is claimed is:

1. A terminal apparatus comprising:

a first and a second display units; and

a control unit which controls display contents of the first and the second display units respectively, wherein

the control unit displays, on the second display unit, status information as well as an operation key associated with the display contents displayed on the first display unit and changes the display contents displayed on the first display unit in response to an input with the operation key.

2. The terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the status information displayed on the second display is visually recognizable as long as the power is on.

3. The terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

if there is an concomitant display which is displayed concomitantly to the display contents, the control unit displays the concomitant display on the second display unit.

4. The terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the operation key is a touch panel.

5. The terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the status information includes any one selected from a group having a remaining level of a battery, an radio wave receiving condition, a date, an icon indicating a